wherein the laser is part of an instrument, and wherein the instrument is an instrument selected from the group consisting of a confocal scanning microscope, a flow cytometer, an endoscope, a chromatograph and a lithography instrument.

9. (Once Amended) An illuminating instrument comprising: a laser that emits a light beam, a microstructured optical element that spectrally broadens the light from the laser and a first optical means for shaping the spectrally broadened light into an illumination light beam,

wherein the instrument is an instrument selected from the group consisting of a confocal scanning microscope, a flow cytometer, an endoscope, a chromatograph and a lithography instrument.

20. (Once Amended) A device for a microscopic inspection comprising: a laser that emits a light beam, a microstructured optical element that spectrally broadens the light from the laser and an optical means for shaping the spectrally broadened light into an illumination light beam,

wherein the device is a device selected from the group consisting of a confocal scanning microscope, a flow cytometer, an endoscope, a chromatograph and a lithography instrument.

24. (Once Amended) An illuminating instrument comprising:

a laser that emits a light beam;

a microstructured optical element that spectrally broadens the light from the laser;

a first optical means for shaping the spectrally broadened light into an illumination light beam; and

a means for adjusting the power or the spectral composition of the spectrally broadened light,

wherein the instrument is an instrument selected from the group consisting of a confocal scanning microscope, a flow cytometer, an endoscope, a chromatograph and a lithography instrument.

Please add new claims 25-27 as follows

25. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the spectrally broadened light comprises of light pulses, wherein the light pulses have a pulse width and a chirp.

26. (New) A method according to Claim 25, further comprising the step:
- adjusting the pulse width of the light pulses.

27. (New) A method according to Claim 25, further comprising the step:
- adjusting the chirp of the light pulses.